

# Speak Out

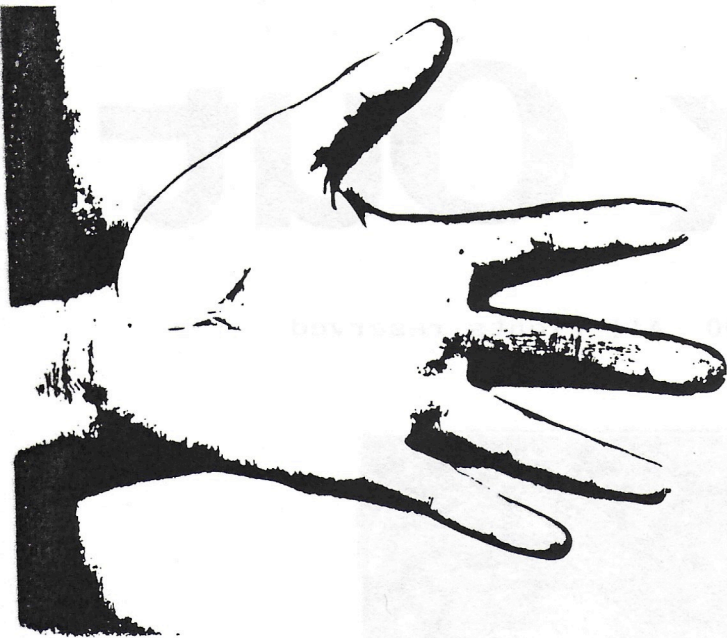
Survivors' Network (Sussex)

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## INSIDE

Boosting awareness  
A letter from a healing survivor  
Living next door to the abuser  
Guidelines for therapists  
More books, meetings, info...



### Management Committee Update

The Management Committee has been meeting regularly over the last five months, following elections in May.

In that time, we have achieved major breakthroughs in care for women suffering from the after-effects of child sexual abuse.

We have: (1) installed a telephone helpline, which is staffed three sessions a week, to offer emergency counselling, or just a sympathetic ear to women in crisis and offer local and national information.

(2) Set up a new office, after much frantic searching, to give the Survivors Network a much-needed base for paperwork and business matters and a future resource centre.

(3) Set up a scheme for training and supervising counsellors to staff the help-line, with a view to offering a 24-hour service.

(4) Provided an opportunity for the creation of self-help groups. We hope to have an on-going therapy group led by a trained facilitator.

(5) A fund-raiser/development worker was employed for four months to put in grant applications and liaise with local organisations. We now urgently need to develop this role to ensure funding over the next financial year, to co-ordinate all workers and provide as wide a service as possible to survivors. A paid worker will be employed for this purpose in the near future.

(6) Held monthly forums to debate the needs of survivors themselves. Some of the topics introduced by survivors include setting up a drop-in centre/safe house, establishing therapy groups, transexuality, support groups for partners (male and female), linking the Survivors Network with statutory organisations. If you have ideas on these and other issues, we would be interested to hear your contribution at the next forum on October 25 at 251 Preston Road, Brighton, 7-9pm.

And there are many other projects in the pipeline...

Anyone interested in becoming further involved in the Survivors Network Management Committee or in training groups should come along to our annual general meeting in early December, when elections will also take place.

